FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

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Maghreb

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi held talks with Moroccan King Hassan II in Morocco near the Algerian border, Rabat radio reported, and signed an unspecified agreement. KUNA had earlier speculated that the meeting would include Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Saudi King Fahd and that the main topic would be the Western Sahara conflict.

Following his discussions in Morocco, Algiers radio reported that Al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Algiers and held talks with Bendjedid. In related developments, Bendjedid telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and received a call from King Hassan II, according to the radio.

Libya

Commenting on the failure of Arab governments to respond to the "nationalist initiatives" proposed by Libya's "revolutionary forces," an *AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* editorial cited by JANA warned that such regimes have until September to redeem themselves: otherwise "we'll deal with them" through "exporting revolution and revolutionary violence."

Red Sea Mines

An anonymous caller telephoned AFP's Beirut office to reaffirm that the Islamic Jihad organization was responsible for mining the Red Sea. Denying that Iran or Libya were in any way involved in the operation, he claimed that a team of divers had laid the mines and warned of further minelaying if the Western nations continue their "imperialist" policies. However, in remarks reported by MENA, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak opined that Libya was responsible, though he added that the Egyptian authorities are still waiting to discover a mine to confirm their suspicions. He expressed the hope that nothing will be found implicating Iran in the mining.

In London, Lloyd's insurance company disclosed that 16 ships have been damaged by the mines, including a Soviet freighter which was hit on 6 August, according to AFP. Meanwhile, a Saudi official source announced that three U.S. helicopters and two French minesweepers would shortly arrive in the Kingdom to participate in the search for "foreign bodies" in the Red Sea, Riyadh radio reported.

Gulf Conflict

Attacks on Tankers — A Lloyd's spokesman stated that there is no "independent confirmation" of Iraqi claims to have destroyed five vessels in the Gulf on 11 August, KUNA reported.

Iraqi Diplomacy — In a statement cited by MENA following his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz disclosed that he conveyed a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and that the talks were held in an atmosphere of "understanding and amity." 'Aziz added that bilateral relations are "excellent"

Meanwhile, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan was received in Amman by Jordanian King Husayn, Amman radio reported. The two sides reviewed the present Iraqi military position in the conflict with Iran. Ramadan also discussed the establishment of an oil pipeline from Iraq to the Jordanian port of Aqaba during talks with Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, according to Amman radio. The two sides signed a cooperation agreement on trade, transport, and communications, INA noted.

Israel

The 11th Knesset session was convened in a ceremony broadcast by Jerusalem radio and television. Interior Minister Yosef Burg, leader of the National Religious Party, was appointed acting speaker by President Hayim Herzog because of his seniority, although the Alignment faction has questioned the legality of the appointment, according to Jerusalem radio. The Knesset's regulating committee agreed to establish on a temporary basis a foreign affairs and defense committee and a finance committee, the radio added. The Knesset will reconvene next week.

Pakistan

Protest to DRA — Pakistan protested to the DRA over another violation of its airspace by Afghan aircraft, Karachi radio reported. Three Afghan planes overflew Pakistani territory early on 13 August, killing one person and wounding five others in a bomb attack southwest of Parachinar, the radio said.

Conspiracy Charges — A special court charged 98 people with conspiring to overthrow President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's government, Delhi radio disclosed. While 56 of the accused are currently in jail, many of the others are in exile, including two sons of late Prime Minister Zulfiqar 'Ali Bhutto.

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200,000 March in Protest Over Embassy Incident

LD131717 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Aug 84

[Excerpts] More than 200,000 Kabul workers, on behalf of all the people of the country, expressed in a great and glorious march today in Kabul their profound hatred and resentment against the bandit-like attack on the sanctity of the DRA Embassy in Bonn. They demanded that the Bonn Government prosecute and punish the perpetrators of the attack on the Afghan Embassy in Bonn.

As our dear compatriots know, on 9 August 1984 a number of suspicious elements belonging to imperialism and reaction attacked the sanctity of the DRA Embassy in Bonn, plundered official papers, documents and property of the embassy, and injured a number of embassy personnel.

BAKHTAR correspondents report that the Kabul workers, comprising laborers, peasants, intellectuals, patriotic clergy, students, teachers, employees [as heard], and various traders of Kabul took part in this protest march. Issuing a strong resolution, they strongly protested the adventurist policies of imperialist countries, headed by U.S. imperialism, the FRG, and their criminal allies, who create obstacles to the development of the national democratic revolution of the working people of Afghanistan.

Marchers, bearing revolutionary slogans, party and state flags, and photographs of Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and chanting slogans of "Long live the PDPA." "May the Glorious April Revolution be victorious," "Death to Rightist forces of Bonn," "Death to U.S. criminal imperialism," "Long live eternal and unshakable Afghan-Soviet friendship," "Death to West Germany's reactionary ruling circles," "Death to West Germany's neofascists," and "Death to murderer rebels," marched on the Peace Road, held a great meeting in front of the FRG Embassy in Kabul, and expressed their profound hatred and resentment.

At the meeting the resolution adopted by the participants in the Kabul protest march was read. The text of the resolution in Dari, German, and English, a valuable document, was thrown inside [as heard] the FRG Embassy by a number of workers.

Protest Marchers' Resolution

LD132114 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Aug 84

[Text of the resolution of the Kabul protest marchers in connection with the attack on and looting of the DRA Embassy in Bonn]

[Text] On 9 August 1984 a number of suspicious elements linked to imperialism and reaction attacked the sanctity of the DRA Embassy in Bonn, looted official papers, documents, and property of the embassy, and injured a number of embassy staff.

We, the participants of this great protest march against this shameful crime of the counterrevolution and its international allies, express our deep indignation at the agents and organizers of this inhuman act contrary to the international law. This anti-Afghan action constitutes a part of the satanic and sinister plans of the counterrevolutionary forces, these lackeys of imperialism, reaction, and hegemonism, whose design has been initiated by the hellish espionage organizations of the CIA and the espionage organization of West Germany contrary to the spirit of the Vienna convention concerning the security of the life and property of diplomatic staff and the (?grounds) of embassies. The bandit-like violation of the sanctity of the DRA Embassy in Bonn, in the presence of the FRG police and security forces, is another proof of the participation of the reactionary forces linked to FRG imperialism in organizing and financing counterrevolutionary activities against the April Revolution and the noble and working people of our independent country, the DRA.

It is not the first time that the FRG reaction is taking a direct or indirect part in such anti-Afghan operations and actions. This is the third time that the political representation of the DRA in Bonn has been violated by ruffians and criminals. It is no accidental matter that the rightist government of Bonn has made hostility against the Afghani revolution and financing the counterrevolution a part of its reactionary policy. The illegal and conspiratorial visit to the DRA by J.G. Todenhoefer, a member of parliament and representative of the ruling Christian Democratic Party, and (Hanish Kutini), and other representatives of the FRG reaction; the statements and conspiratorial speeches by [name indistinct] and other rightist leders of West Germany, and finally the resolution adopted in the month of Jowza [May-June] of the current year adopted by the session of delegates of the FRG concerning aid to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries are telling examples of the shameless and shameful interference of the FRG ruling circles in the internal affairs of our country.

We, the participants of this great march of Kabul citizens raise the voice of protest against the conspiracies and shameful intrigues of the FRG reactionary circles against the people of Afghanistan and the April Revolution, and express our indignation and hatred to the organizers of this antihuman conspiracy. We categorically announce to the people of the world that these shameful interferences, which have been set in motion parallel with the recent $50-million aid of the Reagan administration to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries, those bootlickers of imperialism, reaction, and hegemonism, which form a link in the broad chain of conspiracies and intrigues against the DRA, will never cause to weaken the determination of the toiling people of Afghanistan, who have chosen the path of prosperity and progress. With resoluteness and consistency we shall fight with all our might and strength toward realizing the peaceful and progressive programs of the PDPA and the DRA. We are continuing our struggle, which is based on the humanitarian policy of the PDPA founded on the policy of peaceful coexistence and anti-imperialist solidarity. The brave and militant people of the DRA, under the wise leadership of the PDPA, this guiding force of our society, resolutely, frirmly, and victoriously pursue the path that they have chosen. And no sinister and inhuman plans of Reagans, Thatchers, and [name indistinct] can divert us from the path we have chosen.

We, the participants of today's protest march, on behalf of the toiling people all over the country, once against express our deep indignation at the bandit-like aggression on the sanctity of the

DRA Embassy in Bonn and resolutely demand that the Bonn government put on trial and punish as soon as possible the elements of the aggression and attack on the Afghan Embassy in Bonn. And while we vigorously condemn the irresponsible and provocative approach of the FRG authorities, we demand that the Bonn government, in accordance with international convention, guarantee the diplomatic security of the political staff of the DRA, prevent the recurrence of such inhuman and anti-Afghan actions, and return, as soon as possible, the looted property and documents from the DRA Embassy in Bonn to the DRA and compensate for the damages occurred.

Death and indignation to the FRG reactionary circles, these organizers of the bandit-like aggression against the DRA Embassy in Bonn! The ugly action of 9 August 1984 ought not to be repeated! Lunatics and criminals should be handed over, as soon as possible, to the hands of revolutionary legality in the DRA! Criminals should not be allowed to transform the soil of Germany into a center of aggression against Afghanistan! Death to the counterrevolutionaries, these enemies of the progress and prosperity of our country! Death to imperialism, reaction, and hegemonism! Long live the PDPA! May the April Revolution be victorious!

'Armed Rebels' Crushed in Various Provinces

LD131724 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Aug 84

[Text] A source of Balkh Province's security force has told the BAKHTAR correspondent that recently as a result of successful operations by the security forces in that province, a number of armed rebels were crushed and 27 of the criminals with 1 mortar, 1 DSHK, one rocket launcher, 20 weapons, a quantity of ammunition, and 5 antitank mines were captured.

Another report says that as a result of successful operations in Parwan Province by the security forces, 21 rebels were crushed. The security forces seized 2 DSHK's, 8 assorted weapons, and 10 antitank mines.

Similarly, as a result of other operations in Paktia Province, a number of armed rebels that were disrupting the peaceful lives of the people were recently crushed. The security forces seized four DSHK's, weapons, and a quantity of ammunition.

Quoting the security forces of Helmand and Kabul Provinces, the BAKHTAR correspondent adds that as a result of successful security operations in Helmand Province and Bagrami District, six rebels were captured with nine assorted weapons.

AFP Reports on Fighting

BK140938 Hong Kong AFP in English 0906 GMT 14 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Aug 14 (AFP) — Soviet and Afghan troops have consolidated their positions in the strategic Panjsher Valley and are now concentrating on the region south of Kabul, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

The sources said Soviet and Afghan Government troops had suffered over 200 casualties in the Paktia Province south of the capital in the past two weeks, an indication that the theatre of anti-guerrilla operations had shifted south. However, diplomats quoting "established sources" said Soviet and Afghan troops had su8ffered more than 150 casualities in mopping up operations in areas north of Kabul.

They said an offensive mounted in mid-July against the Shomali region north of Kabul had apparently been called off, noting that aircraft movement from Kabul north had dropped off since late last week. A major Soviet offensive last April to crush the Moslem resistance in its traditional stronghold, the Panjsher Valley north of Kabul, prompted a massive guerrilla retreat to neighboring valleys.

Diplomats said the guerrillas, led by Ahmad Shah Masud, have carried out sporadic raids against Soviet positions in the valley but have been unable to recapture their former bases. According to diplomats, Mr. Masud and his forces have been unable to regroup to pose a significant challenge to Soviet troops in the valley.

Ershad Promises Free, Impartial Elections
BK130640 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 13 Aug 84

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenent General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has called for constructive and production-oriented politics to help smooth transition to democracy through elections.

He was addressing a mammoth public meeting at Patia in Chittagong yesterday. The president said his government firmly believes in people's democracy.

Referring to the scheduled parliamentary elections on the 8th of December, he said some political parties though clamoring for democracy are opposing elections. He wondered how democracy could be established without elections.

The president reiterated that the elections to parliament and all other elections being held by his government will be impartial, free, and fair.

Prime Minister Returns From Commonwealth Meeting
BK120958 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 12 Aug 84

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Ataur Rahman Khan, returned home today after attending the conference of the regional Commonwealth heads of government in Papua New Guinea.

He led a 6-member Bangladesh delegation at the conference held on Wednesday last.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh has called upon the Commonwealth leaders to make serious efforts for enlarging the area of cooperation in the Asian region.

Speaking at the conference on Wednesday, Mr Ataur Rahman Khan said efforts should be made to promote Commonwealth endeavors toward improvement of the economic lot of the people of Asian region.

On the question of the future of the Commonwealth heads of government regional meeting, he said Bangladesh has always supported the concept of regional cooperation.

Since its joining the Commonwealth in 1972, Bangladesh has actively participated in all the summits and other meetings.

Mr Khan reminded that at the initiative of Bangladesh during its Delhi meeting in 1980, a resolution was adopted in the final communique on agricultural research and development.

This concept was further elaborated with the active participation of Bangladesh in the subsequent meetings.

Mr Khan welcomed Brunei Darussalam for its joining the (?call) of the regional Commonwealth countries.

USSR's Ryutel Arrives for Independence Day

BK131656 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Aug 84

[Text] The Soviet vice president, Mr Arnold Ryuytel, [position as heard] arrived in New Delhi today to take part in the independence day celebrations and functions in connection with the Indo-Soviet friendship month. He is accompanied by Mr G.I. Xanayev, the vice chairman of the Union of the Soviet Society for Friendship With Foreign Countries. At the airport, Mr Ryuytel expressed his happiness to be in India when it is celebrating its independence day.

Speaks at Function

BK140525 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Aug 84

[Text] The Congress-I general secretary, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has called upon the people to stand up and face pressures from major powers trying to interfere in the internal affairs of the country. He was speaking at a function organized by the Friends of the Soviet Union to honor the visiting Soviet vice president [of the Supreme Soviet Presidium], Mr Arnold Ryutel, in New Delhi yesterday.

Replying to the felicitation, Mr Ryutel said his country is strong enough to meet any challenge from any quarter. The Lok Sabha speaker, Mr Balram Jakhar, said the Soviet Union has proved that it is India's real friend in prosperity and in crisis.

Cosmonauts Invited for 2-Week Moscow Visit

BK111446 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 11 Aug 84

[Text] A warm welcome awaits the Indian cosmonauts, Rakesh Sharma and Ravish Malhotra, when they arrive in Moscow on Tuesday at the invitation of the Soviet Government. During their 2-week stay, they will visit Leningrad, Kiev, and Alma-Ata. Disclosing this, a Soviet spokesman said in Moscow that both countries will continue to cooperate in exploration of outer space. He said that an Indian satellite will be launched from a Soviet cosmodrome next year. It will be the fourth and heaviest satellite launched so far by India.

'Rights' in Indian Ocean To Be Defended

BK131010 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Aug 84

[Text] The defense minister has declared that India is ready to defend its sovereign rights in the Indian Ocean if the need arises. But it wishes that this ocean remain a zone of peace to enable the littoral countries to reap the bounties. Mr S.B. Chavan was making a statement in response to a call-attention motion in the Rajya Sabha today. It related to the threat posed to the country following the concentration of naval forces of big powers in the Indian Ocean. The motion was moved by Mrs (Najma Hiftullah), Congress-I, and many others. Mr Chavan said that the government is ensuring that the Armed Forces, particularly the Navy, are equipped to resist any encroachments to India's sovereign rights in these waters. More warships and submarines have been inducted for this purpose. Appropriate aircraft have been deployed for maritime reconnaissance and the weapons system has been improved.

Defense Minister on Pakistani Harpoon Missiles

BK131529 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 13 Aug 84

[Excerpts] The defense minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, assured the upper house of parliament today that India is ready to defend her sovereign rights in the Indian Ocean if the need arises.

Mr Chavan said Pakistan's acquisition of the latest equipment from certain countries cannot be ignored. He described as far-fetched the reason given by Pakistan that it had acquired Harpoon missiles from the United States to meet the threat from Afghanistan. Mr Chavan said Afghanistan does not even have one km of coastline and it is clear that Harpoon missiles can only be used against India. The minister said steps have been taken to protect the entire coastline even the far-flunged islands and all the three forces are in a position to work in coordination.

Replying to a question, Mr Chavan made it clear that the global, regional, and national interests are kept in mind while determining the defense policy. He said the government is aware of the presence of naval ships in the ocean. It can object to the presence of ships of other countries under the law of the sea although none of them had taken any overt or covert action so far.

Tamil Nadu Schools Closed; Madras Police Injured

BK140420 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Aug 84

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, all educational institutions have been ordered closed for a week from today. This has been done in the wake of widespread students' agitation against the killing of Tamilians in Sri Lanka.

In Madras, police made a lathi [baton] charge to disperse a students' procession which turned violent. Nine police personnel were injured.

Sri Lanka Violence Discussed in Parliament

BK140929 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Aug 84

[Text] The finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, has said that all of us are shcoked over the developments in Sri Lanka. He told the Rajya Sabha today that the government shares the anguish and anxiety of the members. He assured the house that he will inform the members when the matter can be taken up. Earlier, immediately after the question hour, members from all sides expressed concern over the happenings in Sri Lanka. They complained of a planned move against the Tamils there. Members wanted the government to make a statement and an early discussion.

In the Lok Sabha, also, the opposition members demanded a comprehensive statement from the government on the escalation of violence in Sri Lanka. They wanted an immediate discussion on the situation in the island. The speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, said the government is prepared for a discussion and the opposition leaders should tell him when they wanted it.

He told them that at their meeting with him yesterday it was decided to discuss the issue on the 21st of this month. Not satisfied with the speaker's observation, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam members and an independent staged a walkout.

Call For General Strikes in Assam 14-15 Aug

BK101441 Hong Kong AFP in English 1352 GMT 10 Aug 84

[Text] Gauhati, India, Aug 10 (AFP) — The two groups spear heading an anti-immigrant campaign in the northeastern state of Assam have called for an eight-hour general strike and boycott of independence day celebrations on Wednesday, a spokesman said today.

The protests are to follow a 12-hour general strike on Tuesday called by regional political parties of northeastern state and union territories to criticize the government's alleged failure to solve immigrant problem.

The All-Assam Students' Union and the Assam People's Forum for Struggle have for years been demanding the expulsion of immigrants into Assam from nearby Bangladesh and Nepal, who they claim are swamping the indigenous Assamese. Neighbouring states have also objected to the immigrants.

The issue of how many of these immigrants should be included on electoral rolls sparked off unprecedented violence in various parts of Assam in February and March last year, which left over 3,000 people dead — mostly Nepalese and Bengalis — and an estimated 100,000 homeless.

Union and Forum leaders said they would not officially back the Tuesday strike as they were not political parties, but their supporters would work for its success, a union spokesman said.

The government has tightened security measures throughout the northeast to prevent violence on independence day.

Followers of the anti-immigrant movement boycotted the independence day celebrations in August last year as they considered the congress government installed after the February 1983 election in Assam illegal.

Meanwhile, Assam's participation in the general election due at the end of the year remained doubtful as controversy over finalising the electoral rolls persisted.

Anti-immigrant campaigners are demanding that the rolls should be revised on the basis of the 1971 list, but the state government insists that the 1979 electoral rolls, on which it was elected, should form the basis for revision.

The election commission, which has full constitutional authority to decide if the elections should go ahead, has asked the state authorities to declare their stand before August 25. On that day it is due to meet national opposition parties to decide about holding the poll.

The religious minorities, especially the Moslems, have opposed the use of the 1971 list, as a large number of them might become disenfranchised.

A.F. Golum Osmani, a Congress Party leader and candidate for the 1983 parliamentary poll which could not be held due to the violence, noted that there were 6.3 million voters on the 1971 list and 8.6 million in 1979.

So using the 1971 list would mean "disenfranchisement of over two million people at one stroke of the pen," he added.

Delhi Says Orissa Observes State-Wide Strike

BK141012 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Aug 84

[Text] In Orissa, stray cases of arson have been reported at some places including (Neemapara) and (Tarlakhmedi) during the observance of a state-wide strike today. Two buses of the state transport have been damaged and there has been squatting on the railway tracks and roads at some places. About 100 people are reported to have been arrested for violating law and order. State and central government offices, however, are functioning normally.

The call was given by the All-Orissa Students' Action Committee and all opposition parties in the state to protest against last month's Borla tragedy and alleged police excesses.

Protest Lodged on Bombing by Afghan Aircraft

BK131539 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1510 GMT 13 Aug 84

[Text] Three Afghan aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace in Khurram Agency at 0945 [0545 GMT] this morning. These aircraft entered up to 20 km inside Pakistan's territory and remained in Pakistani airspace for 15 minutes. These aircraft bombed and rocketed (Qum Alizaid) near (Nafti Kot) village about 10 km southwest of Parachinar, as a result of which one person was killed and five women were injured. Furthermore, 23 head of cattle died, 1 house was destroyed, and 10 houses were damaged. The bombing caused 21 huge craters which indicates the intensity of the bombing.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office today and a protest was lodged on the violation of Pakistan's airspace by the Afghan aircraft.

The Afghan charge d'affaries was told that just when the UN-supervised indirect talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan are due to commence, these types of incidents will worsen the atmosphere and will not be conducive for talks. The charge d'affaires was warned that Afghanistan should refrain from violating Pakistan's airspace, inflicting loss of life, and damaging property of Pakistani citizens, otherwise they will be responsible for the consequences.

The permanent representative of Pakistan at the United Nations has been instructed to apprise the UN secretary general of the latest incident of violation of Pakistan's airspace by Afghanistan.

Ziaul Haq Interviewed by ASSOCIATED PRESS

BK120955 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Aug 84

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has reiterated his determination to complete the national election process before 23 March next year. In an interview with the ASSOCIATED PRESS of America, he emphasized that the elections will be as free and impartial as those held elsewhere in the world. He said the electioneering period will be short and will be completed within 6 to 8 weeks. He is against a lengthy election campaign, the president observed.

He once again categorically denied that Pakistan is manufacturing a nuclear bomb.

In reply to a question, the president said Pakistan-U.S. relations are very good, and he is not concerned about any reduction in U.S. economic and military aid. Pakistan-U.S. relations are based on mutual trust, he added.

About the problem of narcotics, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq urged the United States and other West European countries to enact more stringent legislation to eradicate this menace.

On Afghanistan, the president said he is confident that this problem can be resolved politically. He believes the Soviet leaders when they say that they want to withdraw from Afghanistan.

Delhi Cites Ziaul Haq on Election Timetable

BK121247 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Aug 84

[Text] President Ziaul Haq has said national elections in Pakistan will be held before the provincial assembly and the senate poll. Talking to newsmen in Rawalpindi yesterday, General Zia hinted that political parties will not be allowed to compete in the electoral process. He also ruled out the holding of a presidential referendum.

Gen Zia denied reports that his country is building a nuclear bomb.

Ziaul Haq Addresses Nation on Independence Day

BK140618 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 14 Aug 84

[Excerpts] The nation is celebrating independence day with utmost enthusiasm and the pledge to achieve the objective for which Pakistan was created 37 years ago. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq stressed to the nation on the occasion always to keep the basic objectives for creating Pakistan and to endeavor to achieve them. He urged the nation to follow Jinnah's guiding principles of unity, discipline, and determination, and to establish solidarity and unity in their ranks.

He urged the people to remain cautious regarding internal as well as external threats and asked them to give priority to the interest of the country and the nation over anything else. The president said he is confident that in so doing they will come closer to the objective for which this country was established.

The president unfurled the national flag at an impressive ceremony at the Rawalpindi presidency this morning. Later, the entire nation joined him in chanting the national anthem.

Later, the president addressed the nation. The president said that the government is fully aware of the situation around the country and is keeping a constant watch on developments. All necessary steps are being taken to ensure the security of the country. However, it is not only the responsibility of the government; the entire nation is also responsible, he said.

He said he is confident that the whole nation will stand up like a [words indistinct] wall to protect and maintain the country's integrity, security, and national prestige. The president appealed to the nation to make a pledge on this auspicious occasion of independence day to establish unity in their ranks, eradicate communalism, and to follow the injunctions of God and the teachings of the prophet so that the country is protected from both internal and external threats.

The president appealed for making the system of calling for prayers successful. The system is being introduced throughout the country today. The president said that at present, the system is being introduced on a voluntary basis and on the [word indistinct] of calling upon people in this regard. However, the government is determined to make this system a success.

Delhi Reports 98 Charged With Conspiracy
BK130719 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Aug 84

[Text] In Pakistan, a special court yesterday charged 98 people with conspiracy to overthrow the Zia government. Those charged include Mr Murtaza Bhutto and Mr Shahnawaz Bhutto, sons of the late Pakistan prime minister, Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. Reports say that 56 of the accused are at present in Lahore jail. Others, including the sons of the late Mr Bhutto, are in exile. The (?court charges) the Bhutto brothers and others for conspiring to assassinate officials of the Zia government.

Foreign Secretary Returns, Reports on DPRK Visit
BK111228 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 11 Aug 84

[Text] The Democratic People's Republic of Korea attaches highest importance to developing relations, especially economic cooperation, with Pakistan. It has agreed that the second session of the joint economic committee, set up between the two countries in 1982 at the time of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's visit to DPRK, be held at the earliest. This was stated by the foreign secretary, Mr Niaz A. Naik, on his return to Islamabad today from a visit to Pyongyang. He said President Kim Il-song was deeply touched at receiving a letter from the Pakistan president and a gift. The DPRK leader responded through a personal letter, as well as a gift for the president.

Foreign Minister To Visit Saudi Arabia, Gulf
BK121546 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Aug 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan leaves Islamabad on Tuesday for Jidda on a 6-day official visit to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar. During his visit, the foreign minister will hold talks with foreign ministers and other leaders of the three countries. He will also be accompanied by a 2-member delegation.

During his stay in Jidda, the foreign minister will preside over a 2-day conference of Pakistani envoys based in the Gulf nations beginning on Thursday. The conference will review important developments in the Gulf and consider ways and means to strengthen Pakistan's economic and cultural relations with the countries of the region. It will also discuss issues pertaining to the welfare of Pakistanis working in the Gulf countries. Certain other senior officials will also participate in the envoys' conference in Jidda. They include the secretary general of the economic affairs division, secretaries in the Ministries of Commerce, Labor, and Manpower, and senior officials of the foreign office.

The foreign minister will later go to Kuwait and Qatar. He will return home on 20 August.

Border Trade Protocol With China Signed
BK140829 Karachai Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 Aug 84

[Text] Pakistan and China have signed a new border trade protocol. Under the protocol, Pakistan will export cotton cloth, medicinal herbs, dry fruits, cigarettes, and [word indistinct] and import from China silk, electricity generating sets, coal, and kerosene oil. The protocol was signed in Gilgit today on behalf of Pakistan by the federal commerce secretary. The leader of the visiting Chinese border trade delegation signed on behalf of his government.

Speaking on the occasion, the leader of the Chinese delegation said the border trade between the two countries was a symbol of the friendly and brotherly relations of the two people.

Soviet Experts Aiding in Search for Oil
GF111436 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 4 Aug 84 p 1

[By Mohammad Ali]

[Excerpt] Hyderabad, 2 August: Soviet experts are working on oil exploration installations and the wells dug by the Oil and Gas Corporation [OGDC] in Tando Adam are also under the supervision of Soviet experts.

In his report submitted to the Pakistani Government in 1974, the Soviet expert on petroleum, Mr (Niklensen), said that vast underwater oil reserves exist in Pakistan, but no steps were taken to implement the report findings. Now, India has begun its search for oil 50 kms inside Pakistan's territorial waters. A Soviet oil prospecting vessel has been searching for oil in the Rann of Cutch. The same Soviet survey vessel had discovered oil reserves in Bombay's coastal waters in 1964-66.

SRI LANKA

Athulathmudali on Police Station Explosion

BK131520 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 13 Aug 84

[Text] Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali told a news conference in Colombo that the terrorists had spread the story that the people who were killed inside the Chunnakam police station as result of a bomb explosion were the Tamil prisoners who were left behind in the station when the police vacated the building. The minister said that this was an absolutely fantastic story. He said that this story had been put out by what he called the terrorist disinformation center abroad.

Even the BBC had carried this news item in their bulletin. Contradicting this version, Mr Athulathmudali said that after the Chunnakam police station was [word indistinct] inspected by Sinhala and Tamil police officers, the authorities reviewed the situation and decided to close it down. When the police left the station, they carried with them all that was there. The Army (?covered) departure of the police because of the (?serious) situation. Thereafter, the terrorists had walked into the police station as they were accustomed to, and, while they were there, an explosion possibly caused by them resulted in the collapse of the Chunnakam police station. The minister said that according to his information, 11 persons were killed, but unconfirmed reports said that 19 had died. Mr Athulathmudali said that the story according to the terrorist disinformation center was that the Tamil prisoners were left behind in the police station, they had shouted for help. Some poor innocent people came to rescue them but they were killed when a time bomb had gone off somehow. The minister went on to say that the officer in charge of the station was a Tamil, named (Rajalingam). The assistant superintendent of police who was in charge was a Tamil, named (Manoharan) and superintendent of police too was a Tamil, named (Kharagoratnam).

What the terrorist disinformation service was suggesting to the world was that these three responsible senior Tamil police officers and police constables had left the Tamil prisoners inside the building when they vacated it. The minister said that it was a normal practice that when a police station was abandoned, the terrorists walked in and enjoyed themselves. Unfortunately on this occasion, one of their bombs had gone off. When the Army heard of the incident, it rushed to rescue those who were buried under the debris. However, the terrorists had put up road blocks and the Army had to fight its way through. Fifteen persons were killed in the (?ensuing) fight. The Army had to use a huge crane from the Kankesanturai cement factory to lift the debris.

Referring to another incident, the minister said that a terrorist group had attacked the Kayts police station and a post office this morning. Five terrorists were killed in the shootout. Several were injured. The terrorists used bombs and fire arms. They could not take anything from the police station.

Referring to the Mannar incident which took place on Saturday in which six Army personnel were killed, the minister said that the explosive device used in this incident was extremely sophisticated. Information suggested that the device was made with some foreign assistance.

When asked about a foreign news broadcast which reported that a South African Air Force plane has brought arms and ammunition to Sri Lanka recently, the minister said that the story was nothing but rubbish.

Answering another question relating to the alleged burning of some shops in Mannar, the minister said that he was told that some security personnel were among those who reportedly went in a bus and set fire to these shops. If this is true, he said, he would take severe disciplinary action under the military law. The Mannar District minister has been asked to investigate the matter. He referred to the incident which took place last year at Tirunelveli and Trincomalee where security personnel were sent home for violating the law. Mr Athulathmudali said that even in the past, severe disciplinary action had been taken against those officers who violated the law.

Asked about another radio broadcast that the Tamil United Liberation Front leader, A. Amirthalingam, had said that over 100 houses had been destroyed by the Army at Velvettithurai, the minister said that Mr Amirthalingam had earlier stated in a letter to President Jayewardene that the whole Velvettithurai town was being razed to the ground. The minister said that Mr Amirthalingam had contradicted his own statement within a matter of days. Mr Athulathmudali stated that this was the type of information the terrorist disinformation center engaged in.

Delhi Says Violence Continues in Tamil Towns

BK140907 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Aug 84

[Text] In Sri Lanka, there have been more clashes between troops and Tamil extremists in the northern part of the country. Official sources say that about 30 Tamil extremists were killed in the latest fighting which included an attack on a police station. In another incident 10 Tamil extremists were killed in a gun battle with an Army convoy.

There were also reports of two bomb explosions at police stations, one in the provincial capital Jaffna and another in the town of Mannar. Details of any casualties in the incidents are not immediately known. Reports say security forces have burnt down shops and other property in Mannar in reprisal against the attacks.

In the earlier explosion on Saturday, several Tamil youths were killed when a police station was reduced to rubble. Reports say there are still many bodies buried under the debris. It has been confirmed that 13 people have been killed so far in the blast in the town of Chunnakam. Official sources say that the deathtoll in the 9 days of clashes has increased to 99. However, unofficial reports put the deathtoll much higher.

According to the BBC, the Army is still not patrolling the streets of Jaffna. It remained in the barracks most of the time, but came out in patrols occasionally and indulged in random shooting. The Army is also reported to have shelled a hospital last week, suspecting the presence of some extremists inside. The Roman

Catholic bishop of Jaffna said the Army is behaving like occupation forces and it is not at all disciplined.

BBC Reports Soldiers 'Mutiny' in Mannar

BK141241 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 14 Aug 84

[Mark Tully report in "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] For our first report we go to Sri Lanka where the government is facing increased activity by Tamils fighting for the separate Tamil state in the north of the island. Now some soldiers in the Sri Lankan Army, apparently enraged by an explosion on Saturday in which six soldiers died, have gone on the rampage attacking civilians and their property in what Sri Lankan officials have described as a mutiny. Our correspondent in the town of Mannar in northern Sri Lanka Mark Tully has the details:

[Begin Tully recording] According to officials in Mannar, about 30 soldiers surrounded the main bazaar on Sunday afternoon. They threw petrol bombs and hand grenades, burning 109 shops. Some shops were still smoldering this morning. The soldiers fired at random, killing two people, and entered private homes for stealing jewelry. Some residents say the soldiers were drunk. On Sunday, the soldiers also raided two villages near Mannar, killing three people.

At a public meeting yesterday, the citizens were assured that the Army had been controlled. But last night soldiers looted and burnt shops in another small town only 15 miles from Mannar. Angry citizens this morning asked the Cabinet minister specially sent to Mannar what the value of government's assurance was? The minister blamed the mutinies on the explosion near Mannar on Saturday in which six soldiers were killed. The soldiers' commanding officer told me that they had been incited by the sight of their dead comrades. He said that no government could tolerate the Army running amok.

The mutinies are a blow to the powerful national security minister who has been claiming that the Sri Lankan Army's discpline problem has been resolved and that it is now engaged in an offensive action against Tamil separatist guerrillas. He has also claimed that this action is welcomed in the Tamil dominated north.

Premadasa Hits Opposition on Terrorism Issue

BK131132 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 13 Aug 84

[Text] The Sri Lanka Freedom Party [SLFP] says that the only solution to the terrorist issue is to hold a general election. Prime Minister R. Premadasa has asked whether Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike is requesting a general election considering the terrorists as democrats. The prime minister was speaking at Panduwas Nuwara yesterday. The occasion was the inauguration of a water supply scheme.

Mr Premadasa said that the other leftist parties in the country today referred to the SLFP as traitors. During the last presidential election, the SLFP had supported the terrorists.

He recalled that it was the SLFP which had called for the abolition of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The government will expose this fact during the forthcoming by-elections. The government could once again get a mandate to safeguard the independence of the country.

The terrorists have become the pawns of certain foreign forces. This has been established further after the Madras Airport tragedy. The prime minister said that the intention of the terrorists was to bring the country under foreign domination and not to set up a separate state. Mr Premadasa pointed out that the problem was no longer a national question, but an international one.

Khomeyni Receives Martyrs' Families in Jamaran

LD131659 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 13 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug 13, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received families of martyrs, relatives of prisoners of war (POW) and those missing in action, in the Jamaran Mosque on Monday. In the meeting, the imam's representative and head of the martyr foundation, Mehdi Karrubi, praised the selfless struggle of the families and prayed for their continued steadfastness. At the end of the meeting, Imam Khomeyni responded to the visitors' enthusiasm.

Free Voice of Iran on Succession Council Formation

GF130934 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 12 Aug 84

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent, even though Khomeyni's health has improved following a second heart attack in 2 weeks, a succession council has been formed. This council is an amalgamation of the coordination committee and the "Council for Guarding the Islamic Revolution." 'Ali Khamene'i, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Mahdavi-Kani will be the members of the coordination committee, while in the "Council for Guarding the Islamic Revolution," there will be additional members, including members of the Council of Guardians, the prime minister, commander of the Guards Corps, and Ahmad Khomeyni, son of Ruhollah Khomeyni. Our correspondent added that the Council of Guardians has been unable to decide on a successor for Khomeyni due to internal disagreement. He added that security measures in the capital have been increased in the past few weeks and that the number of guards has increased in Tehran. In addition, Mehrabad Airport, Tehran railway station, and radio and television and communications headquarters have been placed under the strict control of the Guards. The regime of the Islamic Republic has avoided reporting the formation of the succession council.

Armed Forces Joint Communique No 1,818

LD131509 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 13 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug 13, IRNA — Four civilians were wounded Sunday when the Iraqi heavy weapons fire was directed at the Nowdesheh suburb or Bakhtaran, western Iran devastating some houses. Also, seven homes and two shops were damaged as a result of the enemy long-range artillery fire against Abadan's residential quarters during the same day. Announcing the above on Monday, the 1818th communique of the Joint Staff Command of the Iranian Armed Forces added that over 17 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded by the Muslim combatants of the Islamic Republic, who destroyed 17 bunkers and lookout posts throughout the battlefronts over the preceding 24 hours. It further said that the enemy lost one machine gun, one mortar launcher, two personnel-carrying vehicles and an engineering truck in the same period. An Iraqi patrol group attempting to reach the Islamic forces' positions in the Qasr-e Shirin region of Bakhtaran theatre was soon subjected to the timely fire of the Iranian defenders which forced the enemy to retreat with some casualties.

In the Marivan front of the northwestern theatre alone, said the communique, the Islamic combatants killed or wounded 13 enemy troops and smashed two Iraqi group bunkers as well as disabling a number of the latter's vehicles.

Reportage on Volunteers Leaving for Fronts

Mobilization, Guards Corps Leave

GF110529 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Aug 84

[Text] Parallel with the sacrifices of the warriors of Islam on the fronts of the battle of right against wrong, large groups of self-sacrificing volunteers of the Mobilization and Guards Corps departments of Fars, Bushehr, Hormozgan, Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad, and Kerman Provinces, and the city of Sabzevar, left with warm sendoffs during the past 2 days to go and aid the zealous and brave army of God at the fronts of battle against the Zionist enemy.

Ahvaz Corps Leaves

GF120651 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Aug

[Text] In continuation of the departure of the combatant Mobilization forces for the fronts of right against wrong in order to deal mortal blows against the decaying body of the infidel Saddamists, another group of the self-sacrificing Mobilization members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Ahvaz left for the fronts yesterday afternoon while chanting "War, war until victory" and other crushing slogans against the international oppression and their slave, Saddam Husayn. Other groups of lovers of Hoseyn's Karbala left the cities of Dezful, Andimeshk, Masjed Soleyman, Behbahan, and Shushtar for the fronts of right against wrong in order to battle the infidel Saddamists. They were given warm sendoffs and left while chanting "War, war until victory." In addition, during the past 2 days, large groups of mobilization members and Guards Corps personnel from the provinces of Bushehr, Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad, and the cities of Shiraz, Neyshabur and Khorramabad left for the fronts of the war against the Zionist enemy.

Technical Experts Leave

GF130630 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Aug 84

[Text] In continuation of the increasing number of volunteers answering the call of Islam for the fronts of the battle of light against darkness, a number of Mobilization and Revolution Guards Corps personnel from Bushehr, Sabzevar, 'Aligudarz, Ramhomroz, Dasht-e Azadegan, Arsanjan, and Rasht left for the fronts during the past 2 days. They were given warm sendoffs by the people of the cities. In addition, in continuation of the voluntary departure of experts to aid the Islamic infidel fighters, a group from the Mobilization of the Oppressed Department of Neyshabur Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, who have some expertise in various technical fields, left for the war fronts yesterday.

'Large' Groups Leave

GF140620 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Aug 84

[Text] Volunteers continue to answer the call of Islam and depart for the fronts of the war against the Zionist enemy in order to deal effective blows against the decaying body of the infidel Saddamists. Large groups of mobilization volunteers and members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps from Bushehr Province and the cities of Karaj, Qazvin, Kashan, Golarab, Qom, Yasuj, Semnan, Tehran, and Shiraz, as well as districts of (Barzok), Qamsar, and (Nisabad) left for the battlefronts in the midst of war sendoffs by the Hezbollahi people of these regions. In addition to this, a large group of technically trained brothers left Sari for the reconstruction of warstruck regions of our country.

Lloyds Reports Ship Explosion at Bandar-Khomeyni

LD141123 Kuwait KUNA in English 1037 GMT 14 Aug 84

[Text] London, Aug 14 (KUNA) — A large explosion had taken place on a Singapore-registered vessel beside the jetty at the Iranian port of Bandar-Khomeyni on August 12, according to Lloyds marine casualty department. The ship was the bulk carrier *Cebu*, 38,250 tonnes, but so far no information about the extent of the damage had been received, a Lloyds spokesman said. At the weekend Iraq claimed to have hit five large naval targets, he recalled. Last week a Greek-registered tanker was damaged in the Gulf, following a month-long lull in attacks on shipping in the region.

IRGC Minister Comments on Trip to Syria, Libya

LD111251 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Aug 84

[Text] Mr Rafiqdust, the minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, who headed a high-ranking delegation which had traveled to Syria and Libya, last night together with Mr Mohtashemi, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Syria, returned to Tehran. According to our correspondent, members of the Islamic Republic of Iran delegation in their visit to Syria met the president, defense minister, and other military officials, and in their visit to Libya they met Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, the prime minister, and several other high-ranking Libyan officials, and held talks on the expansion and strengthening of relations. At the conclusion of his 8-day visit to Syria and Libya, the minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps gave an interview to our correspondent at the airport. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording][Unnamed correspondent] Mr Rafiqdust, could you tell us what your aims in visiting Syria and Libya were and what issues you raised with those countries' officials on this journey?

[Rafiqdust] In the name of Allah, the compassionate, the merciful. With greetings to the imam of the ummah and commander-in-chief and with greetings to the combatants of Islam and to the clean souls of the martyrs, at the invitation of the officials of the friendly countries of Syria and Libya, together with the accompanying delegation, I traveled to those countries. Our aims on this journey were the declaration of our stance in the imposed war, conveying a message from the honorable president to His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, visiting military centers, and having some talks in this connection. Praise be to Allah, all these aims were achieved.

[Correspondent] In your talks with the two countries' officials in connection with the war, what issues were raised? What was the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance in these talks?

[Rafiqdust] Fortunately on this journey we had the honor of accompanying our beloved brother, Mr Rahim Safavi, the commander of [Islamic Reolution Guards] Corps operations. He sufficiently explained the corps' previous operations to our brothers in the friendly countries. It was our duty to declare that we will continue the war decisively until the overthrow of Saddam Husayn and the liberation of the people of Iraq. We conveyed this message to the Syrian and Libyan nations as well as to the leadership.

[Correspondent] Considering this delegation's visit to the military training centers in the two countries, were there any talks about the expansion of cooperation in military training? Was any decision made?

[Rafiqdust] Exchange of military experience with the brothers who have the same aim in struggle against Zionism and imperialism is useful. This exchange of experiences started on the journey and, God willing, will continue.

[Correspondent] Thanks you very much.

[Rafiqdust: Not at all]

Reports to President

LD111257 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Aug 84

[Text] On his return from Syria and Libya, Mr Mohsen Rafiqdust, the minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, today met Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. In this meeting he conveyed mutual friendly messages of Mr Hafiz al-Asad and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to our country's president and submitted a report on his journey.

At the conclusion of this meeting, the minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps said: In the meeting with the president I conveyed to Mr Khamene'i the greetings and friendly messages of the Syrian president and the Libyan leader and also the full support of those countries' leaders for the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the just position of our country in the imposed war. He added: In this journey, in our meetings with the high-ranking Syrian and Libyan officials we emphasized that the imposed war would end only with Saddam Husayn's overthrow. Regarding the Arab-Israeli issue, we declared the decisive stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran that Israel must be eliminated and emphasized that after Saddam Husayn's fall and the liber-

ation of the Iraqi nation, the Iranian nation without coveting even an inch of Iraqi territory would fight towards the destruction of Israel.

Hashemi Signs Industrial Trade Letter With GDR

LD121511 Tehran IRNA in English 1458 GMT 12 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 12, IRNA — The Islamic Republic and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) signed a letter of understanding on industrial and trade relations. Industries Minister Mostafa Hashemi told IRNA upon his return from the GDR that the letter expressed the two countries' desire to expand cooperation in china and tile industries, turbine manufacture, textile machines, electronics, as well as greater oil purchases from Iran. During his stay in the GDR, Hashemi also visited a number of industrial centres.

Deputy Foreign Minister Pays Visit to Japan

For Japanese media coverage of Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili's visit to Japan, including his meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and other Foreign Ministry officials, see the Japan section of the 14 August Asia & Pacific *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Majlis Deputy Cites 'Conspiracy' in Mining

LD131231 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Aug 84

[Text] At today's Majlis session, Sadeq Khalkhali, the deputy for Qom, was one of the introductory speakers. He explained the numerous conspiracies hatched by the world arrogance, as well as colonialists, led by the world-devouring America, against the oppressed nations. Alluding to the mining of the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, he referred to the attribution of the mining to the Islamic Republic as a conspiracy. He added: Everyone knows that the Islamic Republic of Iran has had nothing to do with these acts; nevertheless, they shamelessly and insolently hold the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government responsible for it. This is taking place when those accusing Iran themselves lead the supporters of international terrorists, Zionism, and the unbridled governments in the region.

Majlis Debates Ministers' Performance

LD131924 Tehran IRNA in English 1854 GMT 13 Aug 84

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA — The Majlis began its debate on the proposed ministers of Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi's Cabinet today, with supporters stressing on the experience of the ministers and the opponents criticising the performance of various individual ministers during their time in office. The debate, which took place in the presence of the prime minister and his Cabinet, took more than six hours in the morning and afternoon with supporters and opponents sharing equal times, one at a time. Each deputy can speak for five minutes in support or opposition of every minister. The debate will continue Tuesday and after the ministers defend their policies the Majlis will vote separately on each minister. Prime Minister Musavi received an overwhelming vote of confidence last week.

The supporters, including Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, cited the experience of the ministers as the most important reason why the Majlis should approve the proposed ministers. Speaker Rafsanjani said the criticism expressed by the opposition was "exaggerated" and said the replacement of the ministers was not in the interests of the country at the present.

The ministers which were specifically mentioned by the supporting majlis deputies for their performance were Islamic guidance, commerce, interior, economics and finance, health, oil, foreign affairs, heavy industries, energy, labour, construction jihad, agriculture and education. Ministers of oil and finance received the most expression of support.

The deputies speaking in opposition said there were problems in administration of affairs in the ministries in general and mainly in the economy and education. Ministers criticised were health, oil, state in charge of executive affairs, interior, heavy industries, Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, higher education, economics and finance, education, mines and metals, PTT, foreign affairs, defence, state in charge of plan and budget, roads and transportation and agriculture. Ministers of interior, higher education, education, heavy industries and foreign affairs received criticism from most number of deputies. Ministers who were not singled out in the debate were information, housing and justice, all three of whom are new, as well as minister of state in charge of the welfare organisation.